

Ministerial Briefing – Truckers and Threats to Security**January 26, 2022 14:15-14:45****MS Teams**

Key Messages

- Given the multi-jurisdictional impacts of this large scale demonstration on the NCR, all key stakeholders (RCMP, OPP, OPS, PPS, SQ, MRC des Collines, the City of Ottawa, Ville de Gatineau, SPVG) are actively planning and collaborating to ensure public safety.
- There has been an increase in online narratives supportive of the convoy among both ideologically motivated networks, as well as in general public discourse. A significant amount of financial support has also been raised through increasing donations to the main fundraiser associated with the convoy.
- Impromptu protests in places of significance around Ottawa, such as the offices or homes of political figures, public health officials or at media outlets are likely to occur throughout the duration of the convoy's presence in Ottawa, however, reliable information on times and locations remain unknown at this time.

OUTLINE/OVERVIEW

The Commissioner has been invited to a Ministerial briefing on the trucker convoy on January 26, 200 from 14:15 to 14:45.

The Commissioner will be accompanied by:

- Deputy Commissioner Federal Policing Michael Duheme, and
- Assistant Commissioner Federal Policing National Security and Protective Policing Mark Flynn

RCMP officials have prepared Speaking Points available at **TAB A**.

BACKGROUND

In early January 2022, the Government of Canada announced a federal vaccine mandate requiring that all truck drivers crossing the border be fully vaccinated as of January 15, 2022. In response to this requirement, a national event entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022" was planned via social media, which advertised as a fundraiser and then gained momentum on other platforms. The convoy began on January 22 in various provinces and is slated to arrive in Ottawa between January 28 and 29, 2022.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

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Over the January 22-23 weekend, the RCMP's Protective Operations Coordination Center (POCC) reported a strong resentment on multiple social media platforms, targeting Prime Minister TRUDEAU, Minister of Transport Omar ALGHABRA and politicians in general.

The demonstration is comprised of 3 "Freedom Convoys", one from Western Canada, one from Eastern Canada and a third from Southern Ontario. The goal of the nationwide protest is to disrupt traffic flow and general business of government in the hopes that the Canadian government will lift all COVID-19 related restrictions.

Information suggests the convoys will meet in Toronto on January 27th, drive the 401 highway to Kingston, then stage in Arnprior on January 28th, converging to Ottawa at noon on January 29th on Parliament Hill. It is unknown how long the protesters plan to stay in Ottawa; however, the RCMP has located social media posts indicating some participants may stay around the downtown core until January 31st in hopes to disrupt the House of Commons sitting that day.

This convoy is also attracting individuals who are not aligned with any specific ideology or group, but who have experienced personal hardships (such as job loss) due to COVID-19 and are upset with provincial or federal government responses as COVID-19 continues to impact daily life.

Although the majority of information indicates organizers are planning a peaceful event, many social media posts suggest some participants may attempt to disrupt government buildings and further cause disruptions throughout the city.

Planning is underway for the potential disruptions this weekend to do with the truck convoys. A divisional planner has been assigned by the POCC and the NCRCC will be activated. National Division is also looking at standing up Tac troops for this weekend.

The RCMP Special Threat Advisory on this issue is attached for your reference at **TAB B**.

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